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REVOLUTIONARY HEROISM, SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS

PRESIDIUM OF THE CONGRESS

CONGRESS OF HEROES AND ELITE FIGHTERS IN THE PATRIOTIC STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

A GLORIOUS BALANCE-SHEET, AN ENTHUSIASTIC CONGRESS — VIVID EXPRESSION OF OUR PEOPLE'S UNSHAKABLE WILL

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Revolutionary Heroism, a Popular and Daily Virtue

FOR almost two years now, the United States — a superpower, some say — has hurled against our people her best-trained divisions and most effective weapons; for almost two years now our people, in both North and South, have been holding out victoriously.

Tay Ninh, Tan Son Nhut, Pleiku...; in the South, our forces have marked the close of 1966 and the beginning of 1967 with resounding victories, shattering the "second dry season strategic counter-offensive" of the U.S. Command.

In the North, in spite of 22 months of bombing, a most honourable balance-sheet has been drawn in these first days of 1967: over 1,600 enemy aircraft shot down and, something Washington didn't certainly expect, the continued progress of economic and cultural building. A whole province, 15 districts, 28 communes, 1,000 co-operatives obtained for the past year over 5 tons of rice per hectare — a promising result for our agriculture. Enemy bombings have never succeeded in interrupting our communications while our regional industry keeps developing. Never have our schools and universities known such big enrolments. Never have our cultural and artistic activities known such vigour, inspired by our fighters' valour.

TO the enemy's ultramodern weapons, we have opposed a decisive one: the unshakable will of our armed forces, of our entire people to defend their fatherland. This iron will has been brought out in magnificent relief by the Congress of Heroes and Elite Fighters recently held in Hanoi, attended by over 500 delegates in the presence of President Ho Chi Minh and Party and Government leaders.

45 fighting and production units, and 111 individual workers and fighters have been promoted Heroes of the People's Army or Labour Heroes.

There they were, soldiers credited with innumerable exploits, peasants who had achieved record outputs under the threat of American aircraft, workers who had run their factories efficiently and kept them humming in unimaginable conditions, communication workers who, under daily deluges of fire and steel, had kept the traffic moving, devoted schoolmasters, intellectuals who had contributed to the progress of science and culture — there they were, a living image of the whole nation standing up to the enemy, determined to win.

When hearing about their exploits, one would imagine them to be exceptional people, "bronze bones wrapped in iron skin" as runs a Vietnamese saying, proud and superb heroes with dignified bearing. But when you meet them, you are surprised to see simple-mannered men and women, boys and girls, some of whom express themselves with difficulty and blush red when you ask them questions. From their deportment, actions and words, one thing is clear: they are all resolved to follow to the letter Uncle Ho's recommendations:

"Surmount all difficulties,
Carry through all tasks,
Defeat all enemies".

A most important point: they never stand apart from their squads, groups, co-operatives, factories, laboratories. They are fully aware that it is their collectives which have helped them achieve whatever they have achieved. They are only the vanguard of an entire people who, in their centuries-old history, have never resigned themselves to slavery.

(Continued page 7)

IRREFUTABLE PROOFS

At a press conference held in Hanoi on January 6, 1967, the Delegation of the Japanese Committee for Investigation of U.S War Crimes in Vietnam announced the first results of its on-the-spot findings in a number of localities of North Vietnam.

Present at the conference were Vietnamese and foreign journalists, foreign guests who were visiting Vietnam, the International Tribunal Investigation Mission set up by Lord B. Russell and the Hanoi members of the International Commission for Supervision on the cessation of hostilities.

At this conference the Japanese Committee for Investigation of U.S. war Crimes in Vietnam issued a statement.

The representatives of two groups of the Delegation made public the evidence and testimony collected during their on-the-spot investigations in many other places.

U.S. TARGET: HUMAN LIFE

ZENKICHI ASAMI, a specialist in international politics and a member of the investigation committee touring the four provinces southeast of Hanoi (Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh) had this to say:

"In the above places, we met over 40 witnesses, 5 members of local committees for investigation of U.S. crimes, and interviewed two hospital directors. We also visited places that had been bombed. This is our preliminary conclusion:

"American aircraft have attacked villages and hamlets, towns and cities, dykes and dams, construction sites, railways, roads, schools, hospitals. They have attacked peasants working in the fields, fishermen on the sea. They have attacked even cattle. So we can say that Washington has ordered strikes against human life and whatever is necessary to human life. There is no exaggeration in such a statement.

"We could not help noticing in particular that American aircraft had struck at dykes and dams, channels, water conservancy works in the above provinces. In this small country with low-lying fields, criss-crossed with rivers and channels, the people's life is concentrated along rivers and dykes. From a plane, this can be easily seen, and there can be no confusion with military targets. American aircraft have taken advantage of the rains, when the level of the water in the rivers was higher than the level of fields and villages, to strike at dykes and water conservancy networks. This was aimed at provoking floods and mass extermination through drowning and famine. In Nam Ha province, from April to September 1966, that is in the season of floods, 125 air strikes were conducted on dykes and water conservancy works. In August in particular, when the water level reached its peak, there were 81 air strikes. American aircraft also strafed peasants engaged in repairing dykes damaged by bombs. Delayed-action bombs were used in these operations. One may correctly say that the bombings of the dyke were part of a systematic plan.

"Looking at the bombed dykes and dams, we could not but remember what Seiss Inquart, commander of the Nazi occupation forces in the Netherlands in the Second World War, had done: he had ordered the destruction of the dykes there. Inquart was sentenced to death by hanging at the Nuremberg trials. American crimes in North Vietnam also call for similar punishment.

"Through on-the-spot investigation and examination of evidence collected (some exhibits are displayed here) we found that American aircraft had used high explosive bombs, rockets, missiles, gas bombs, napalm bombs, machine-guns and fragmentation bombs loaded with steel pellets, this last kind being specifically anti-personnel weapons. It should be pointed out that those weapons had been ceaselessly improved and that new kinds had been experimented on a large scale. *This could be clearly seen in the way in which fragmentation bombs had been modified in subsequent raids and in the markings on such weapons as missiles and napalm bombs, indicating the time of manufacture.*

"We got the clear impression that the Americans have been using Vietnam and the Vietnamese as proving-ground and guinea pigs for experimenting with their new armoury.

Mr. Yukata Ishijima, deputy-head of the Japanese delegation (center) talking to Mr. Nguyen Nong (right), chairman of the administrative committee of Ngu Thuy village (Quang Binh province)

"This could only give us the deepest shock, to us Japanese who had experienced the tragedy of Hiroshima. The Americans had used Asians to test their atom bomb, which was devised to kill Asians. The Vietnamese are being used by the Americans to test other weapons of mass extermination.

"The above is evidenced by the bombings of the city of Nam Dinh. Two quarters of this city were bombed after thorough air reconnaissance. Gas bombs, high explosive bombs and fragmentation bombs loaded with steel pellets were dropped at night, when people were sleeping and air raid shelters had been flooded by recent rains".

"CONCRETE AND STEEL"?

THEN Mr. Yukata Ishijima, a lawyer, gave the results of the investigation carried out by his team in Quang Binh and other provinces to the south. He said:

"The Johnson administration has said that in its war escalation in Vietnam, the targets of American air strikes are 'concrete and steel'. Many people in the world do not believe these words, but some do.

"On the strength of what we have seen with our own eyes, heard with our own ears and touched with our hands, we can conclude that this piece of American propaganda is contrary to the truth and at utter variance with facts. The truth is, American aircraft have perpetrated extremely barbarous crimes against the Vietnamese people, crimes that have no precedents in human history.

"The city of Dong Hoi lies 60 kilometres north of the 17th parallel. With its heaps of rubble and lifeless houses, it bespeaks part of the American crimes. Walking through this 3-sq.-kilometre city, we saw over 1,000 houses destroyed, which must have resulted in at least 6,400 people made homeless. We visited what had been the home of a cobbler: amidst the rubble lay half-charred women's shoes. In other houses, we found broken pots and kitchen utensils. In the same district of the city, the building housing the permanent team of the International Control Commission (I.C.C.) had been reduced to a heap of ruins. Did the Pentagon consider the I.C.C. headquarters mere 'concrete and steel'?

"Only vestiges remained of a kindergarten. We met a child rummaging in the ruins of his school looking for some books. We also saw bombed pagodas and churches, and broken statues of Buddha and saints.

"The Dong Hoi hospital had been razed to the ground. All buildings had been destroyed. Under a collapsed staircase, we found patients' dossiers, some of which we brought back. We must stress the fact that many dossiers dealt with children's diseases. American aircraft had used napalm bombs in their attacks on this hospital. On its very site, we found fragments of napalm containers and bits of burnt gasoline jelly. It is clear that against this hospital where people's lives were being saved, American napalm had been used to destroy human lives.

"How can President Johnson explain away these facts?"

The hospital in Dong Hoi town, after repeated U.S. air raids.

Wounds caused by U.S. napalm.

OUR WITNESSES

MR. Ishijima continued: "During our stay, we heard a fairly great number of witnesses. We have taped their testimony.

"We met Pham Thi Hue, a woman of 33. She had lived at Dong Hoi, but had been evacuated to the countryside. She lost her husband and her three children in the raid on Dong Hoi on September 11, 1965.

"On the same day, nurse Hoang Thi Ly was helping a doctor who was operating on an appendicitis case. A bomb knocked down the wall, which collapsed on her. She was saved however, but three assistant physicians and the patient were killed.

"In the same hospital, young Nguyen Cong Thang, 14, was taking his little brother to a consulting room when the child was killed by a bomb. Thang himself lost his left arm.

"We listened to Dao Thi Quy's account of her tragic sufferings. That day she wasn't home. When she returned, of her husband and four children (the youngest only two months old), only charred bits of flesh remained: American napalm had been dropped on their home.

"But this is not the end of American crimes in Quang Binh."

WHOLE HAMLETS DESTROYED

"NGU THUY is a coastal village located to the north of Vinh Linh, which is crossed by the 17th parallel. We visited it on December 31, 1966. Our trip there had been interrupted by several air raids: in one occasion, bombs fell barely 300 yards from us.

"We walked on a stretch of fine sandy beach. But soon, our eyes met a desolate sight: rows of charred filao trees, a few tufts of grass on a stretch of burnt sand, red and black in colour, strewn with innumerable bits of bombs and shells. White bits of metal had belonged to napalm containers. Burnt gasoline jelly formed black pools. A terrible hail of bombs of all kinds, including fragmentation bombs, had been rained on Thuong Bac and Thuong Nam, inhabited by 173 households comprising 500 people. These two hamlets had been razed to the ground and no vestige of life whatsoever remained. High explosive bombs, napalm bombs and fragmentation bombs had left nothing of them. What is most significant is the pattern of the bombing.

"We went to Nghiem Loc, a hamlet of about 200 houses to meet some witnesses who could tell us about the savage methods of the American airmen.

"The bombing had begun at 18.30 hours on July 15, 1966. For three hours on end, jets and propeller-driven aircraft dropped flares to make a careful observation of this hamlet. No mistake could have been committed. Then other planes came to drop high explosive bombs all around the hamlet with the aim of preventing all escape. Then napalm bombs were dropped on the houses. At 2 o'clock in the morning, B.57s and F.4s came to fire rockets and drop fragmentation bombs, the latter being obviously aimed at killing people who had escaped from the houses on fire.

"There is no doubt that the raid had been very carefully planned and executed. On the following day, July 16, 1966, Thuong Nam and Thuong Bac were erased from the map. The method of bombing was somewhat different. From 17.00 hours to 21.00 hours, high explosive and napalm bombs were poured on the two hamlets, destroying all houses and shelters. After 21.00h, other planes came and dropped fragmentation bombs and napalm, and fired 20mm cannon shells with the aim of killing people who had been deprived of all shelters. Three days later, the people here rebuilt their houses. But from August 30 to September 4, everything was again destroyed by other raids.

"Two methods of attack, but one and the same aim: to kill as many people as possible, not to strike at concrete and steel, as claimed by Johnson".

INDOMITABLE AND RESOURCEFUL PEOPLE

ON the results of the raids, Mr. Ishijima said:

"Here, one cannot help thinking of the high civilian casualties which the raids must have caused. But contrary to our fears, only one child was killed at Nghiem Loc and two others at Thuong Bac and Thuong Nam during the July 16 raids.

"We met the people of those places. They were in good health and looked cheerful. One may say that the local people and authorities have indeed achieved a great feat: to preserve their lives. How? Perhaps you would like to know. But as the Pentagon is dying to know too, so as to perfect its methods of murder and destruction, allow me to keep silent on this point.

"But this does not extenuate the crimes perpetrated by the Americans. If they used Hiroshima and Nagasaki to experiment on the atom bomb, they are now using Vietnam and the Vietnamese to test fragmentation bombs, napalm and other means of mass extermination. This is a crime that has no precedent in human history".

Press conference held by the Japanese delegation in Hanoi

Photo: Van Luong

I.C. fixed team H.Q. in Dong Hoi town, Quang Binh province, destroyed by U.S. bombs

Photo by the Japanese Committee for Investigation of U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam

Wounds caused by U.S. napalm

Napalm bomb and fragmentation bomb debris seen on the beach of Ngu Thuy village

Photo by the Japanese Committee for Investigation of U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam

STATEMENT

OF THE DELEGATION OF THE JAPANESE COMMITTEE FOR INVESTIGATION OF U.S. WAR CRIMES IN VIETNAM

(EXCERPTS)

... IN the localities in the seven provinces and two cities of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam which we visited, we have seen with our own eyes facts of U.S. encroachments on the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, facts showing large scale sabotage of the peaceful production and the life of the Vietnamese people, effects of air bombing and strafing and naval shelling of densely populated areas, and facts confirming the massive use of inhuman weapons. We have come back after taking note of criminal acts, gathering evidence and talking with witnesses.

On the basis of the evidence which we ourselves have gathered at first hand, we can give an entirely scientific, objective, clear confirmation of criminal acts perpetrated by the U.S. Air Force and Navy.

It is clear that by these actions, the United States has committed the following war crimes against international law and customs:

"Crime of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam".

"Crime against peace and humanity".

"Crime of using criminal, inhuman weapons forbidden by international law, crime of using poison, toxic chemicals".

"Crime of carrying out large-scale, systematic, and most savage attacks against civilians".

In particular, we have to raise our voices to point out that a series of U.S. crimes are most savage, odious and unprecedented crimes, denying man's very right to live because they have been carried out according to a well-organized, systematic plan of massacre, and they have surpassed war crimes perpetrated by the Nazi fascists.

... For the common action in the international arena, we will supply the democratic forces of the world with the results of the present investigation and future ones, in order to bring about the condemnation of U.S criminal acts in Vietnam.

More specifically, we extend an unreserved support to the forthcoming session of the International War Crimes Tribunal proposed by Lord Bertrand Russell. We will extend co-operation to the International Tribunal by supplying it with all the results of our investigation.

We will make public these results of our investigation of war crimes to the Japanese people and other peoples of the world, to bring into the sunlight the U.S. war crimes in Vietnam, and make these crimes condemned by world opinion.

Photos (left to right):

— Mr. LE DUAN, First Secretary of the C.C. of the Vietnam Workers' Party among the heroes and elite fighters.

Mr. TRUONG CHINH, Chairman, of the National Assembly and General VO NGUYEN GIAP talking to hero THAI VAN A, a Con Co fighter.

— Premier PHAM VAN DONG and the heroes and elite fighters.

REVOLUTIONARY HEROISM, SECRET OF OUR SUCCESS

(Excerpt from Vice-Premier LE THANH NGHI's Speech at the Fourth Congress of Heroes and Elite Fighters)

OUR success testifies to the strength of revolutionary heroism. Never throughout the history of our nation has it been promoted to such a high degree, an extensive scale and a large extent as today. It is a revolutionary heroism burning with the determination to fight and to defeat the aggressor, a revolutionary heroism glowing with a self sacrificing spirit in the fight and selfless labour in production and in socialist construction amidst the flames of war.

Bringing revolutionary heroism into full play, all our compatriots and fighters are growing up, our entire nation is growing up. An old legend of our people's has it that Thanh Giong shot up into a giant and drove out thousands of invaders. At present, in our resistance war against the American imperialist aggressors, our nation is also growing up as rapidly as Thanh Giong and dealing the U.S. pirates thundering blows.

Small wonder that this heroic nation, this heroic era, has been giving birth to many heroic sons and daughters. Our people count a heroic working class, a heroic collective peasantry, heroic armed forces and heroic intellectuals. Our youth is more heroic than ever. Our women display boundless heroism in production and the fighting. Our snow-haired old folks behave most heroically. Our pioneers are also extremely valiant. All of them strive to tread in the steps of our ancestors

Throughout our land, from countryside to towns, from remote islands to far-away forests, on the ground, on the water or in the sky, everywhere there have been emerging heroic deeds, heroic collectivities, heroic individuals. One can say that in our people's daily life, heroic achievements have become common occurrences.

The heroic units and persons commended by the National Assembly Standing Committee and Government in this Congress are outstanding representatives of the great heroic collectivity of our armymen and people. They most vividly reflect the mass and common character of revolutionary heroism, national union and the all-sided growth of our armymen and people.

The 44 *heroic units* include: 22 from the army and militia, 5 from the people's security forces, 8 from the communication, transport and post services, 4 from industry and forestry, 1 from the state farms, 3 from the co-operatives, and in particular we have heroic Vinh Linh zone.

The 111 *heroes and heroines* comprise 31 from the army, 7 from the militia, 7 from the people's security forces, 29 workers, 21 peasants, 4 intellectuals, 40 youth, 17 women, 3 elderly people and 14 minority people*.

THE content of our revolutionary heroism consists of five points:

First point: *To be loyal to the country and faithful to the people. In the struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation and the building of socialism, always to keep up one's spirit of self-sacrifice and self-denial.*

All heroic units and heroes, heroines are possessed of this fine virtue and noble revolutionary nature: to be true to the revolutionary cause. This loyalty springs from great feelings: patriotism, love of socialism and hatred for the enemy. All of them work for the fatherland for the people and for socialism, bring into full play their spirit of sacrifice and self-denial, and contribute as much as they can to the revolution. They are ready to sacrifice everything, even their own lives when the revolution and the fatherland require them to do so.

Loyal to the country and faithful to the people, the **people's armed forces** have set countless examples of unusual gallantry and lofty sacrifice. The **Con Co garrison** is one of the brilliant examples. On this 4 square kilometre island, officers and men have calmly and valiantly fought off 800 attacks by the American aggressors from the air and from the sea, downing many U.S. planes, sinking and damaging many U.S. warships, holding fast this outpost of socialist North Vietnam.

Nguyen Viet Xuan, an extremely courageous political instructor of an A.A. company, an excellent Party secretary, though facing Yankee jets for the first time, stood firm in face of the adversary's fierce attacks and gallantly commanded his unit "*To aim and fire straight at the enemy!*". After being wounded, he refused to leave the battlefield, calmly asked a mate to cut off his leg smashed by an enemy shell and went on urging his unit to fight until victory. "*To aim and fire straight at the enemy!*", this order of martyr Nguyen Viet Xuan will resound for ever on our battlefields. Such a behaviour spelled out boundless loyalty to the fatherland, a deep hatred for the enemy and an unshakable will to wipe him out.

Ngo Thi Tuyen, an undersized militiawoman of Nam Ngan (Thanh Hoa province) endowed with an extraordinary fighting strength, can carry two ammunition-cases (nearly 100 kilogrammes) at a time in the rains of bombs and bullets, to help the armymen in countless fierce engagements.

Tran Van Tho, a people's security fighter with a record of zealous service of over ten years in the highlands, together with the local population repressed reactionaries, wiped out bandits and commandos, established security bases, set up co-operatives, developed production and promoted the new life. After his much grieved death, people have erected a monument in his memory.

In the territorial waters of the fatherland, face to face with the enemy, our heroic navymen live those in the **Seventh P.T. Boat Group**, have day and night by fair and foul weather displayed an indomitable spirit, downed many adverse planes and sunk numerous enemy warships, bravely defended the country's territorial waters and airspace.

The name is legion of **workers** and cadres who have been defying the American aggressors' raids to meet the urgent demands of production and the fighting. **The Linh and the Ham Rong power-plants, the Ham Rong bridge repair section** (Thanh Hoa province), **the volunteer youth group 759** (Quang Binh province), **the Huong Son lumberjack group 5** (Ha Tinh province) have stood firm like steel walls and held their plants and construction sites, working and fighting hard.

So many **collective peasants** have been devoting heart and soul to their duties. In many places, the fields have become real battle-fields, where the co-op members have had to shed blood to get more paddy, more subsidiary crops, and more pigs, not only for themselves but first of all for the armymen to defeat the adversary.

Dinh Nhu Gia, a production group leader in the Nam Ho co-op (Vinh Linh) has volunteered to work in the most dangerous place, disputed every hour with the enemy to do his farm work in time, braved the fire to save paddy-stores, and has fought scores of engagements to defend his village...

Lo Van True, Party secretary and president of Chieng An village administrative committee (Son La province), a rifle on his shoulder and a child on his back, has canvassed every peasant household to urge him repair irrigation canals after each enemy raid on the co-operative. Many a time he has braved adverse bombs and bullets to guide his fellow villagers to safety and courageously participated in 42 engagements to protect the co-operative.

Many of our **intellectuals** have shown great dedication to the interests of the revolution and fatherland. Many scientific, technical, medical, educational, literature and arts workers have endured hardships, kept in close touch with the realities of production and the fighting, and brought their abilities into full play to serve the people, the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation and the building of socialism.

Second point: *Strictly to implement the lines and policies of the Party and the State, zealously to emulate with one another, and most satisfactorily fulfil one's task in whatever circumstance.*

The immediate goal of our Party and people is actively to build and defend socialist North Vietnam, make all-out endeavours to help liberate the South, and achieve national reunification. Strictly to implement the lines and policies of the Party and the state and strive to bring about the Party's goal is the yardstick of our loyalty, sense of responsibility and revolutionary quality. All heroic units, heroes and heroines have most ably fulfilled the tasks set by the Party and the state through thick and thin.

Our heroic army units, heroes and heroines have constantly displayed gallantry and resourcefulness, strictly abide by the Party's military line and fighting principles, and resolutely defeated the enemy. By constantly adhering to the Party's line on our technical revolution and guiding principle on the new orientation of our economy, our labour heroic units, heroes and heroines have reached high productivity norms and overfulfilled the state plan and other tasks despite the hard conditions of the war.

Officers and men in the **engineering corps** have correctly carried out the Party's line, closely combining the efforts of the army and those of the people, mechanical and rudimentary means, modern technique and people's experience, and thus they have most satisfactorily fulfilled the task of keeping communication and transport moving and efficaciously served the front.

Nong Van Viet, always busy on the roads under heavy attacks, has never refused to go down to bomb craters and unprime hundreds of time-bombs, keeping the traffic open and safe. He is one of the first men to find a way to neutralize fragmentation bombs.

Many efficient and outstanding girls such as **Tran thi Ly, Truong thi Dien** have fulfilled their duty of helping the people's army in the enemy fire and valiantly participated in many engagements.

Pham Ba Hoa, of the Thai minority has steered rafts over 52 rapids on the Ma river, braving storms, floods and enemy planes day and night and managed to arrive at destination safely and before schedule.

Dao Thi Hao, operating 24 looms, has over several years running, obtained the highest productivity and best quality, saved every inch of yarn and valiantly participated in many engagements against enemy planes to save public property at the risk of her life.

Despite war conditions, many agricultural co-operatives have striven to improve their management, built material and technical bases, raised paddy yield, developed subsidiary crops, boosted animal husbandry, sold extra quotas of foodstuffs to the state, actively served the fighting, bravely fought and contributed to downing many U.S. piratical planes.

Having grasped the Party's policy on the nationalities and on education, **To Thi Rinh**, a teacher of the Tay minority in the mountain area (Cao Bang province), has patiently mixed with the people, worked with them to persuade them to build schools, learnt Meo script to teach Meo pupils and helped poor children with her own money.

Third point: *Resolutely to go deep into science, technique and professional activities, promote creativeness, daring to think and to do, endeavour to study and apply advanced innovations and experiences, raise labour productivity and combat efficiently.*

That is one of the outstanding features of the heroes and heroines. Having clearly realized the particular importance of technical revolution to the building of socialism, the struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation as well as to your own work, you have striven to study and train yourselves to be conversant with science, technique and to improve your professional standard and to acquire good qualifications.

Though working in different branches, with different levels of knowledge and having different accesses to science and technique, you are like one another in that you have a great determination, a high zeal, exert utmost efforts to study, raise your political, technical and cultural standard, think hard, dare to make researches, overcome difficulties and hardships to forge ahead.

You have upheld the spirit of self-reliance, promoted creativeness, dared to think and to do, applied advanced science, technique, innovations and experiences to the specific conditions of our country and of the war. In all fields of science and technique, you are striving to adjust your work to our conditions, to our methods, to the Vietnamese style. Apart from mastering advanced science and technique of other countries in the world, you have made an apt use of the technical means available in our country and the traditional experiences of our nation.

Hoang Trung Vinh, an engineering worker at the Hanoi telegraphic and radiobroadcast plant with a knowledge of a third-former, has finished his seventh form, studied hard, creatively applied what he has learnt, patiently overcome all difficulties in the matter of equipment, machines, raw materials and materials and managed together with his mates to devise an automatic chain to make plastic-insulated wire comprising 16 kinds of machines. He himself worked out 13 of them. The blue-printing and manufacture of these machines require indeed a good knowledge of mechanics, electronics, metal-working, thermodynamics, magnetics...

Heroines at the Congress: (left to right):
Le Thi Man, Tran Thi Ly, Vu Thi Ty and Dao Thi Hao

Nguyen Hoang Thoan, a worker at the Hanoi engineering plant with a knowledge of a fourth-former, has finished his ninth-form, designed and manufactured screw-tapping machines and polishing machines which require a high technical knowledge. He has introduced many innovations in various jobs, and for five years running, has obtained high productivity and good quality.

Tran Van Ty, a worker who has taught himself into an electrician, has solved many difficulties in the assembly and repair of complicated set-ups of electric and other machines, and has in particular ensured safety and precision in the erection of electric poles 150 metres high to carry power across the Red river.

Nguyen Van Voi, a collier at Mao Khe, has courageously volunteered to do the most dangerous and difficult jobs, introduced many innovations valuable for the whole mine and repeatedly overfulfilled many norms and quotas.

Vu Huu Son, a young operator of a drilling-machine at Deo Nai colliery, has unceasingly made technical improvement, obtained the highest productivity, and together with his group-mates, has overfulfilled the plan by from 20 to 80 per cent and reduced production cost by 38 per cent for 5 years running.

In their endeavours to master science and technique and to carry out intensive cultivation for higher yield, many co-op cadres and members have set brilliant examples of assiduous study and creative application of new techniques. For several years, **Tan Phong** co-op members (Thai Binh province), have learnt advanced techniques and experiences, rationally changing the lay-out of their fields, developed water conservancy works, increased crops and subsidiary plants, struggled against chlorosis, thus constantly raising the co-op per hectare paddy yield — 5.4 tons in 1962, 5.7 in 1963, 5.67 in 1964, 6.7 in 1965 and 7.2 in 1966 — and taking the lead in North Vietnam in labour productivity.

Le Thi Luc, a production group leader in An Vi Thuong co-operative (Hung Yen province) has pioneered the application of new techniques, strictly kept to technical processes and norms suitably adapted to the specific conditions of the area and obtained a high jute yield.

Vu Thi Ty, a water conservancy group leader in Tan An cooperative (Hung Yen province) has constantly used improved implements and applied advanced methods to dig and remove earth, and patiently persuaded her mates to do the same. The group has ceaselessly recorded very high productivity on all construction sites, overfulfilling the state quotas by from 600 to 800 per cent.

Many scientific and technical workers have made persistent efforts in study, thinking, researches and in combining theory with practice. By going deep into field work and applying advanced agricultural science and technique to the agricultural conditions of our country, agrohomist **Luong Dinh Cua** has succeeded in hybridizing many species of high-yield rice which can stand changes of temperature, and actively guided co-operatives to get better seeds and rationalize the lay-out of paddies, apply new techniques and carry out intensive cultivation for higher yield.

Professor **Tran Huu Tuoc**, a doctor in oto-rhino-laryngology, has succeeded in operating a cancer in the lower larynx, and has done his best to build from scratch a branch which extends its network to rural areas, serving the people at large.

Doctor **Pham Gia Trieu** has made careful researches and satisfactorily performed an operation on the skull, treated a serious wound there, and made a great contribution to the building of the neurosurgical branch and training specialists in this field.

By studying hard, striving to grasp advanced military science and technique, and applying it creatively to the specific conditions of our country, many army officers and men have contrived innovations in organizing, training, directing operations and using modern weapons... Missile **Battalion Y** has devised many ingenious methods of fighting, downed many enemy planes; air force **Company X.** has creatively applied tactics and shot down 21 American jets.

Fourth point: *To promote collective spirit, the sense of submission into one's organization and of discipline, comradeship and solidarity with the people, and to follow the mass line.*

Collective spirit is an important factor of proletarian virtue. Who possesses it selflessly works for the community, associates himself with it, strengthens it and draws others into patriotic emulation.

Collective spirit goes along with the sense of submission to one's organization and of discipline. The proletariat is strong precisely because it has a high spirit of responsibility for its historic mission, is organized and united into a steel-like bloc, determined to struggle for a lofty revolutionary ideal. The strength and achievements of heroes and heroines originate from their high collective spirit, sense of submission to their organizations and their strict and self imposed discipline.

Tran Hanh, courageous and skilful pilot of an interceptor plane, has fought off many flights of enemy planes and has been among the first pilots to down F.105s. He has constantly relied on team-work, combated in close coordination with his mates and the supporting units, and strictly implemented his commander's order.

Ho Giao, a demobilized armyman who was reluctantly looking after Ba Vi co-op's pigs, has realized that any work useful to the fatherland and the people brings honour and has recorded outstanding achievements in pig cross-breeding and

(Continued page 7)

CONSTANTLY STRENGTHEN MILITANT SOLIDARITY WITH ASIAN, AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES

IN his speech delivered at a meeting held on January 14 in Hanoi in response to the International Week of Solidarity with the national liberation struggle of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples (January 1-January 10), Tran Danh Tuyen, Vice-President of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, head of the Vietnamese delegation to the Tri-Continental Conference, stressed:

"... *The revolutionary storm raging throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America has placed in a quandary and weakened ever more seriously the imperialists and colonialists who have been repelled step by step and overthrown part by part.*

"*However, with their aggressive and warmongering nature, they still are colluding with one another in countering the national liberation movement, resorting to every brutal and machiavellian manœuvre to preserve their selfish interests, trying to realize neo-colonialism, infiltrating into other countries through the bait of "aid", and seeking to divide the peoples of various countries.*

"*Especially the U.S. imperialists — the most cruel enemy of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples — have been cynically interfering in the internal affairs of many countries, frenziedly waging a criminal war in Vietnam, and fomenting internal dissensions in Dominica, the Congo (L), etc. It is clear that the imperialists and colonialists are never prepared to give back freedom and independence to the oppressed peoples.*

"*Their talks of "freedom", "justice", "peace" are but double-dealing. Therefore, there is no other alternative for the Asian, African and Latin American peoples to win complete liberation than to rally all revolutionary forces, to spearhead their struggle against the colonialists and imperialists, first of all the U.S. imperialists, and fight against them resolutely and continually under varied forms, including armed struggle.*

"*.. On the occasion of the International Week of Solidarity with the national liberation struggle of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, we warmly hail the great successes and good prospects of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, and extend our support to their national liberation movement. We also sincerely thank the Asian, African and Latin American peoples for their wholehearted support for our just struggle, and their practical and active contribution to the common revolutionary cause of the intercontinental peoples for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress.*

"*Our people will strive to promote the tradition of indomitable spirit and dauntlessness of our nation, constantly enhance our revolutionary heroism, translate into deeds the sacred call for national salvation of President Ho Chi Minh, record great achievements in production and fighting, standing shoulder to shoulder with the South Vietnamese people, with the determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, carry out successfully the defence of North Vietnam and liberation of South Vietnam and achieve eventual national reunification*".

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution warmly supporting the national liberation movement of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, and expressing the resolve to ceaselessly strengthen the militant solidarity with them so as to help bring their revolutionary cause to complete victory.

STATEMENT

by Vietnam News Agency

SOME Western radios and newspapers recently released tendentious commentaries on an article written by Mr. Harrison E. Salisbury, correspondent of the New York Times *after his interview with Prime Minister Pham Van Dong.*

In this connection, Vietnam News Agency *is authorized to state the following: Prime Minister Pham Van Dong actually told Mr. Harrison Salisbury: "The four-point stand of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam constitutes the basis of a settlement of the Vietnam problem".*

PROTEST AGAINST HARSH REPRESSION OF 300,000 INDONESIAN PATRIOTS

IN response to the emergency statement of the Asian-African solidarity Committee and the Indonesian Lawyers' Association, denouncing to world public opinion the detention and repression of over 300,000 Indonesian patriots, the Vietnam Asian-African Solidarity Committee issued on December 5 a statement resolutely demanding an immediate end to the victimisation of these Indonesian patriots and their immediate release.

The statement said: "*These savage acts have trampled upon humanity and justice and greatly shocked the conscience of progressive mankind.*

"*For the sake of the solidarity of the peoples of Asia, Africa and the world in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism, heedless of the U. S. imperialists, the Vietnamese people constantly stand at the side of the Indonesian people in their struggle for independence, democracy, peace and social progress*".

The Whole World Supports Us

TRI-CONTINENTAL COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE CONDEMNS DISPATCH OF FRESH PAK JUNG HI MERCENARIES TO SOUTH VIETNAM

THE Tri-Continental Committee of support for the Vietnamese people in Havana (Cuba) issued on December 26 a statement vehemently condemning the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war expansion in Vietnam and the Pak Jung Hi clique's dispatching on its U.S. bosses' orders of more South Korean youth to South Vietnam under the label of "assistance forces", "civilian personnel", and "logistic personnel", after bringing 50,000 South Korean mercenaires as U.S. imperialists' cannon fodder into South Vietnam.

The statement laid bare the U.S. imperialists' cruel policy of "using Asians to fight Asians" and condemned the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique's scheme to turn South Korea into a recruiting centre of mercenary troops for U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

The statement demanded that the U.S. imperialists stop at once their savage and dirty war against the Vietnamese people, withdraw all U.S. and mercenary troops and all of their war equipment illegally brought into South Vietnam.

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On the Occasion of the 2nd Founding Anniversary of the Thailand Patriotic Front

THE THAILAND PATRIOTIC FORCES GROW AT A QUICK RATE

TWO years ago, on January 1, 1965, the Thailand Patriotic Front came into being marking an important turning point in the history of the struggle of the Thailand people. The latter have for long been subjected to the occupation of the U.S. aggressors and the domination of the reactionary clique. But with their tradition of resistance to foreign invasion and with their national pride, the Thai people do not resign themselves to foreign occupation.

The anti-U.S. patriotic movement, starting with simple, spontaneous and separate action, has grown up and taken on various forms of organised and well led activities, political and military, in towns as well as in the countryside. Over the past two years especially since the formation of the Thailand Patriotic Front, it has been developing quickly. Many struggles broke out one after and here among the workers, peasants, students and intellectuals.

In 1965, over 6,000 workers took part in 35 strikes, and their movement has not ceased developing despite harsh repression and has switched from economic struggle to political struggle. In the first 9 months of 1966, 24 political actions drew in 16,000 workers. May-day strikes took place right, in the first months of 1966; the Thailand peasants also mounted many struggles against the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen's grabbing the people's land to build military bases, and against increasing taxes. The mountaineers of various nationalities in Xieng Rai protested against the "rural development" groups (i.e. agents engaged in herding the people into what is similar to South Vietnam "strategic hamlets"). Women in some places demonstrated for the return of their husbands or sons sent as cannon fodder to Laos.

In the towns, a number of journalists, ex-deputies and functionaries, have in their legal struggles voiced protest against the dictatorial regime, its toeing of the U.S. imperialists line and against the Thailand authorities' permission to the U.S. to use Thailand airfields in its bombing missions in Vietnam and Laos. They also urged that a national assembly be formed, elections be held, friendly relations be established with the neighbouring countries, and demanded an independent economic and diplomatic policy.

What frightens the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys most is the rapid growth of the armed struggle of the Thai people. Since late 1965, the gunfire of Thai guerillas against the U.S. and for national salvation has been heard in the northeast of the country. The guerilla zone has expanded from Nakorn Phanom province to 7 northeastern provinces. The Thai guerillas have decimated and wiped out the enemy force with booby traps, ambushes, land mines, surprise attacks, and armed propaganda carried out in the enemy area, counter-attacks and murders of cruel thugs and other activities.

Though newly born, the Thailand patriotic armed forces have proved a formidable opponent for the enemy thanks to the protection and assistance of the people.

In an attempt to nip the revolutionary movement in the bud, the U.S. imperialists and the Thai reactionaries have at times thrown into their raids up to two or three battalions of regular troops, policemen, secret agents, supported by tanks and aircraft. The U.S. "special force" units in Udorn have taken part in terrorist operations along with the Thai troops and policemen. But they have been inflicted fierce counter-blows and heavy losses.

In 1966 alone, the Thai patriotic forces fought 127 battles, killing or wounding over 300 enemy troops among them 20 officers. Thai Vice-Premier Praphat Charusathien himself admitted on November 9, 1966 that the guerilla movement formerly confined to the northeast and south of Thailand has now spread to the east, and that the Thai authorities' big raids have got no result. The Thai government's ban in November last of press reports on the people's guerilla movement testifies all the more clearly to the ineffectiveness and panic of the Thai authorities.

The 6-point political program of the Thailand Patriotic Front which reflects the real situation and meets the deep aspirations of the people has become a banner rallying the Thai patriotic forces opposing U.S. imperialism.

The patriotic struggle of the Thai people is still long and hard, but will end in success. The Vietnamese people warmly support the Thai people's struggle for independence, democracy and progress, which is part of the common front of the Indochinese peoples against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. This movement develops in very favourable international circumstances when the national liberation movement is rising like a tidal wave and the U.S. imperialists are suffering repeated setbacks and are isolated in the world.

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REVOLUTIONARY HEROISM...

(Continued from page 5)

sow rearing. Assigned later on to raising cows — a hard job — he has satisfactorily fulfilled his task: his cows have given birth to hosts of calves and yielded a lot of milk.

Nguyen Thi Khiu, a leader of a fishing-boats' group, in Thong Nhat co-operative (Quang Binh province) who had displayed great zeal during the Resistance War against the French colonialists, has been the first to join the co-operative, and the sponsor of a fishing boats' group comprising only women determined to attain the same yield as the men. When the American planes attacked the coast-line, she gave immediate care to seriously injured mates.

Nguyen Van Hue, head of the Hai Nhan primary school (Thanh Hoa province) has greatly contributed to building his school into a model one during the emulation movement of the general education branch.

*

Fifth point: *industry, thriftiness, integrity, righteousness, dedication to common interests, modesty, simplicity and exemplariness in all fields.*

Nguyen Que, head of the Tan Phong co-operative (Thai Binh province) is held in esteem by all the members for he has led them to consolidate the co-operative and obtain high yields, and has shown an unimpeachable honesty throughout his seven years of office. He has constantly let the co-op members check his bookkeeping and prevailed on everybody to carry out thrift and struggle against embezzlement and waste.

The Van Kieu minority people (Vinh Linh) like **Le Van Phu**, manager of the Huong Lap state-store, as one of theirs, and thrust him with the proceeds of their forest product sale to get commodities for them. For many years indeed he has guided them to step up production and develop animal husbandry, called at every house to sell goods and dug many air shelters for his customers. In his dealings with them, he has always behaved honestly and modestly.

Mai Xuan Diem, a tug-boat steerman at Ghep ferry, courageously discharged his duties. Before handing his last, he passed on to his mates his experiences in steering the craft under enemy attack, handed over every sou of the trade-union's fund he was entrusted with and advised his wife to devotedly serve the people.

The above content of revolutionary heroism can be summed up in President Ho Chi Minh's teaching: To be loyal to the country and devoted to the people, to fulfil any task, overcome any difficulty and defeat any enemy". Unqualified faith, dedicated fighting, selfless labour, determination to fight and to defeat the American imperialist aggressors, such is the most conspicuous and concentrated expression of revolutionary heroism among our entire army and people.

IT has a rich content for it has deep and firm roots. Our Vietnamese nation is more than 4,000 years old. Its history is an epic of staunch and undaunted fighting against foreign invasion, for independence and freedom. Our nation has promoted boundless heroism, great creativeness and unusual combat skilfulness, opposing a just cause to tyranny, weakness to strength, rudimentary weapons to modern armoury, fostering one's forces in the course of the fighting, winning glorious victories and defeating expeditionary forces which subjugated many countries. National heroes and heroines like Ba Trung (1st century), Ba Trieu (3rd century), Ly Thuong Kiet (11th century), Tran Hung Dao (14th century) Le Loi (15th century) Quang Trung (18th century) have set shining examples for our posterity to follow.

Our present beautiful Vietnam has been built by our people at the cost of much blood, labour and hardship. Each field, each hamlet, each section of dyke or road, each town, has been soaked with the sweat and tears of our forefathers in their struggle against natural calamities and aggression.

History has endowed our nation with most precious qualities: heroism, indomitable spirit, unity, intelligence, diligence, optimism, modesty and simplicity.

Our Party has educated our people in Marxism-Leninism, the loftiest thinking of mankind, which vigorously promotes the traditions of heroism of our nation. Thanks to the leadership of the Party of the working class which closely combines the struggle for national liberation with that for class emancipation, genuine patriotism with lofty proletarian internationalism and the spirit of courageous sacrifice with the science of revolutionary struggle, the heroism of our people is promoted to a higher degree. It embodies the finest virtues and feelings of our nation along with the great thinking and sentiment of the working class. It is possessed of both a national and class character, a traditional and modern character. Such martyrs as Tran Phu, Nguyen Van Cu, Le Hong Phong, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Hoang Van Thu, Ly Tu Trong, Vo Thi Sau, Co Chinh Lan, Mac Thi Buoi, Nguyen Van Troi** are shining examples of Vietnamese revolutionary heroism in our era.

Under the leadership of the Party, our people promoting its tradition of heroism has been marching from victory to victory: we successfully resisted the Japanese fascists, waged the August Revolution, founded the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the first people's democratic republic in South East Asia, defeated the French colonialists and American interventionists, won the glorious Dien Bien Phu victory, liberated the North, carried out socialist revolution, started building the material and technical foundations of socialism. Our Party has constantly been inculcating on our people class consciousness, patriotism, love for socialism, international proletarianism, socialist thinking and ethics, the sense of being collective masters, self reliance, iron will to defend the North, liberate the South and reunify the country.

Heir to the fine tradition and rich experiences of our forefathers in building and production, armed with Marxist-Leninism, fostered in their proletarian revolutionary virtues, led by a clear-sighted Party, living under a superior socialist regime and wholeheartedly helped by the fraternal countries and friends the world over, our people are heroing into full play their great and invincible strength.

Lenin has said that the building of communism requires a great revolutionary heroism, a particular militant heroism in the preservation of the gains of the toiling masses from enemy attacks, and calls for an enduring and staunch heroism in the daily work of the masses.

Our army and people have strictly carried out Lenin's teaching, upheld revolutionary heroism, fought while producing, recorded outstanding exploits and won glorious victories.

Many heroic units and heroes and heroines have emerged like spring flowers in the revolutionary struggle of the nation.

Glory to the heroic units, the heroes and heroines of the heroic Vietnamese nation and of the heroic working class in their heroic area!

* *At this congress there are 6 pioneers representing tens of thousands of Uncle Ho's good nephews and nieces who distinguish themselves in study, manual labour and help to armymen.*

** *They laid down their lives in the struggle for national liberation before the August Revolution has been brought to success in the former Resistance War against the French colonialists or in that against the American aggressors today.*

REVOLUTIONARY HEROISM, A POPULAR AND DAILY VIRTUE

(Continued from page 1)

YOU only have to step out of your door to meet a hero", says one of our Southern friends. For a quarter of a century now, the Vietnamese people, in order to win their independence and freedom, have confronted one after another the most powerful and machiavellian imperialists. They have had to show the greatest courage, resourcefulness and determination, so as to be able both to fight and build.

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TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

At each stage of this march forward, the Vietnamese people have promoted their best sons and daughters heroes and heroines of the nation. Congresses were held in 1951, 1958, 1962; that of Heroes for the Liberation of the South in 1965. Those who have now been awarded this glorious title are following the path charted by their elders, the heroes of the anti-French resistance and those of the first years of socialist building.

Beside them is the elder among elders, Uncle Ho, who has shown to our entire people how to combine age-old patriotism with revolutionary fervour, love of one's people with internationalism, love of one's country with Marxist-Leninist science, how to be fraternal to all peoples while never giving in to the enemy, how to stand ready for all sacrifices, even that of one's own life, when the interests of the revolution require.

Revolutionary heroism, which has become a popular and daily virtue, is now for our people the best guarantee of victory.

THE L.A.F.

(Continued from page 8)

ACCORDING to Western reports, on January 4 and 5, local army assaulted Nui Chua post of Chu Lai defence system. After 15 minutes' fight, 62 enemy troops including 42 G.I.'s were killed or wounded, all the weapons captured.

In addition, a U. S. platoon sent for relief was fiercely intercepted, many Yanks killed or wounded.

The following day, a post some 30km south of Da Nang was also stormed; heavy losses were caused to the enemy.

day... Apart from that incident, the U.S. marines met only swarms of red ants and not guerillas...

But the guerillas met them without their known and of terror as shown by the damage caused to the *Saint Francis River* and the *Point Sunset*.

Assessing the result of that big raid, *AFP* said "that big landing by U. S. and Vietnamese marines which marked the first direct intervention of U.S. combat units in the Mekong delta, completely failed three days after the landing".

ENEMY SETBACKS IN OTHER PLACES

Around Saigon:

ON January 5 night, the L.A.F. attacked the Headquarters of the Hau Nghia military subsector, 33km northwest of Saigon, and a position nearby, according to Western reports.

UPI admitted that the guerillas wiped out a post defended by a puppet company, 8km southwest of the above-mentioned military subsector, captured many enemy troops and seized almost all weapons including 2 60mm mortars and many machineguns and rifles.

— On the same day, a police station 24km north of Saigon was also attacked. Most of the policemen were wiped out.

— On the same day, the L.A.F. intercepted a puppet military convoy on Highway 1 about 30km northeast of Saigon and put out of action almost all the troops aboard while an enemy post 70 km south of Saigon was stormed. Many puppet troops were killed or wounded.

— On Jan. 4, one U.S. gunboat was damaged by recoilless-gun fire on the Bassac river.

In the northernmost part of South Vietnam:

THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

Transmissions in English

Hanoi time	G.M.T.
6.00— 6.30	23.00—23.30
17.00—17.30	10.00—10.30
20.00—20.30	13.00—13.30
22.30—23.00	15.30—16.00

Meter bands	Frequencies
25, 31, 240	11.840, 9.489, 1.240kc/s
25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
25, 32, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s

The English Section of Radio THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

The L.A.F.:

★ **Destroyed nearly 60 aircraft, wiped out 155 GI's, burned down 5 big fuel depots at the U.S. military base in Pleiku.**

★ **Sank 1 vessel and heavily damaged 4 others, including a 12,000-ton tanker, on the Saigon and Mekong rivers**

★ **Attacked two parking grounds *Pleico Ford* and *Sceland*, 12km northeast of Saigon and destroyed many enemy armoured cars *(Jan. 8)*.**

ACCORDING to *Liberation Radio*, on early morning of January 7, 1967, the L. A. F. launched powerful attacks on the U. S. military base in Pleiku town, including 2 airfields, many billets of the U.S. airmen and technicians, logistics and storage areas.

The L.A.F. lobbed mortar shells on and penetrated into the enemy compound and wiped out many U.S. aggressors. Big fires leapt up in all parts of the compound (over 100 metres high) and deafening explosions shook Pleiku town. The enemy was completely paralysed. Many U.S. air pirates and technicians and all the American guards at the logistic base were completely wiped out: An outpost guarded by U.S. troops was demolished. The L.A.F. got control of the battlefield.

According to initial reports, after thirty minutes' fighting, the L.A.F. destroyed nearly 60 aircraft and damaged many others, killed or wounded 155 G.I.'s. In addition, 5 big fuel depots, dozens of oil tanks and war material storages and many military vehicles were burned.

Violent fires were raging and explosions were heard, shaking the whole Pleiku town till the night of January 7.

According to Western reports, this military base was later subjected to three other attacks from the LAF.

The U.S. spokesman in Saigon said that the third attack lasted from 1 a.m. to 3.15 a.m. and the fourth from 2.30 a.m to 3.30 a. m. on Jan. 10." The first two attacks took place at daybreak and late in the night of January 7.

AFP reported that in the third attack, the LAF mortar shelled, machine gunned and hurled grenades into the U.S. barracks and the airfield. As in the first attack, the mortar shells hit important fuel depots and caused great losses to the enemy.

Also according to western sources, in 4 days ending January 9, the L.A.F. successively intercepted enemy gunboats on the Saigon and Mekong rivers.

In Thanh Phu district, Ben Tre province, the LAF on January 6 damaged the *Saint Francis River* rocket launcher while it was mooring off the coast in support of the landing of U.S. marines conducting operation *Deckhouse V* in Thanh Phu district, Ben Tre province. On the following night, the *Point Kennedy* was also hit near the raiding place.

On January 9 morning, the LAF sank a U.S. gunboat loaded with 100 GI's and puppet troops on the Mekong river, close to My Tho provincial capital. The ship was 51m long and 12m wide; its sinking obstructed navigation on this portion of the river.

A few hours later, the LAF intercepted 2 minesweepers on the Saigon river, some 24km southeast of Saigon, and 2 tankers about 1.5 kilometres further.

The U.S. commanders in Saigon admitted that heavy damage was done to 1 minesweeper and 1 12,000-ton tanker, and many U.S troops were killed or wounded.

On January 8 morning, 2 U.S. armoured car parking grounds *Pleico Ford* and *Sceland* about 12km northeast of Saigon were attacked. Many armoured cars were destroyed.

In Binh Thuan province, east northeast of Saigon, the L.A.F. on Jan. 6 knocked out a puppet company.

These big victories were won by the L.A.F. within 4 days (Jan. 6 to 9) when Westmoreland and Wallace Green, commander of U.S. marine, were directly commanding operation *Deckhouse V*, the first big raid in the Mekong delta.

Commenting on this big raid, *Reuter* wrote on Jan 7 that 11 of the 12 32 ton armoured cars in the lead armed with heavy guns sank into the mud a few metres after they had left the shore. They were tugged away but sank anew and remained motionless nearly the whole

(Continued page 7)

DECEMBER 1966: SOUTH VIETNAM L.A.F. END YEAR WITH POWERFUL ATTACKS AND BIG VICTORIES

REPEATED ATTACKS ANNIHILATING MANY U.S. AND PUPPET UNITS

HOLDING the initiative, the L.A.F. attacked and wiped out whole U.S. and puppet units. On Dec. 12, a U. S. infantry company clearing inter-provincial Highway 13 was completely wiped out in Tay Ninh province. On Dec. 17, U.S. air cavalrymen on a raiding operation in the jungled mountains northwest of Binh Dinh province were trapped by the L.A.F. who mowed down one enemy reinforced battalion. Four days later, one U.S. company was completely destroyed in an area adjoining Gia Dinh and Tay Ninh provinces. On Dec. 26 night, in a violent attack, the L.A.F. of Binh Dinh province completely wiped out 4 U.S. infantry and artillery companies in the Van Son area, Hoai An district. Throughout the month, many enemy troop encampments came under constant attacks and shellings from the L.A.F. who inflicted heavy losses on the American units belonging to Air Cavalry Division 1, Infantry Divisions 1 and 25, Light Infantry Brigade 196 and the Marine Corps in Binh Dinh, Kontum, Ben Hoa, Tay Ninh and Quang Tri. The U.S. expeditionary troops were in a defensive position on all battlefields.

The puppet troops received successively very heavy blows. On Dec. 12 night, using ingenious and daring tactics, the L.A.F. made a direct attack on the Van Kiep Military Training Centre near Vung Tau, completely wiping out or capturing 4 companies. That same night, another L.A.F. attack on the operational base of puppet Division 1 at An Lo, Bo Den, on Highway 1, 25km northwest of Hue, virtually wiped out one battalion, one company and 4 platoons of enemy troops. On the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southernmost part of South Vietnam, in a pre-dawn lightning attack on December 12, the L.A.F. completely wiped out a main force battalion of puppet Division 7, in My Tho. Over 600 km further north, following a series of fierce attacks, on Dec. 13 night, the L.A.F. razed to the ground the Quang Tin military sub-sector, 30km northwest of Chu Lai, and completely wiped out one puppet battalion and 2 platoons of U.S. and Pak Jung Hi troops.

With a resolve to foil the U.S. plan of assigning the "rural pacification" task to the puppet troops, during December, the South Vietnam armed forces and local people assaulted and levelled to the ground many enemy positions and hit at the enemy troops on raiding or road clearing missions, completely wiping out nearly 20 puppet companies, including many main force units, many rangers notorious for their cruelty. The regional forces and guerillas of Long An province, next door to Saigon in the South West were credited with outstanding achievements. In the first fortnight of December alone, they completely wiped out 7 puppet companies, including 4 main force companies, and a command post of puppet Division 25.

THRUSTING DEEP BEHIND THE ENEMY'S LINES

IN co-ordination with the attacks on enemy raiding troops, positions, outposts and communication lines, during December, the L.A.F. made deep thrusts into the enemy bases and attacked them vigorously, causing heavy losses to the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys.

To avenge Hanoi citizens killed during U.S. air attacks, on Dec. 4 and throughout that night, the Liberation fighters of the Saigon—Gia Dinh area twice attacked Tan Son Nhat airfield, a huge military base near Saigon, putting 600 American and puppet troops out of action and destroying 260 aircraft. Enemy airfields in Ca Mau and Ben Tre provincial capitals and in Duc Hoa district town (in the Mekong delta) also came under violent L.A.F. attacks. A 4-storey building housing the headquarters of the U.S. Army psychological warfare department as well as a puppet police station and a position defending the port, in the very heart of Saigon, were also attacked and demolished. Guerillas in Hue and Ca Mau, using bombs and mines, punished hundreds of "pacification" cadres of the puppet administration within the city limits. The regional L.A.F. infiltrated into Blao town, 120km northeast of Saigon and destroyed the enemy posts there. An American billet in Can Tho city was also demolished by the guerillas' mines. Dozens of military sectors and sub-sectors and special forces camps, and a number of puppet Regiment and Division headquarters were also subjected to violent L.A.F. attacks. The huge U.S. logistic base at Long Binh, some 30 km northeast of Saigon, was attacked for the third time. The fuel dump of U. S. marines in Tam Ky town was set on fire. These skilful and daring attacks by the L.A.F. and guerillas threw the U. S. aggressors and their lackeys into a panic. From the "search-and-destroy" tactics, they now switch over to the "sweep-and-hold" tactics, in an effort to safeguard their encampments.

REPERCUSSIONS OF U.S. SETBACKS

IN a desperate effort to widen the war, during December, the U.S. raised its own and satellite troop strength to over 400,000 men, with the express determination to take a major action in its second strategic counter offensive plan. A review of the military situation in that month clearly showed that the U.S. aggressors had suffered heavy setbacks in all fields.

First, U.S. military commanders used to talk big about their "search-and-destroy" tactics but in fact, their troops had been unable to launch any major attack or to invade any area. Their regiment and brigade-size raiding operations were beaten off by the L.A.F. and met with dismal failure. The small unit gradual progress tactics, as well as the combined "helibourne" and "armoured car" tactics with strong air and artillery cover, including the use of B 52's and heavy guns from the 7th Fleet, continued to prove ineffective.

Second, U.S. passive and defensive position was clear. Belts of inter-related strongholds, built to ensure security for major troop encampments and logistic bases failed to help G.I.'s dodge punitive blows from the L.A.F. They were hit even in most heavily guarded areas, including Saigon, the biggest base of the aggressors and the traitors. They were spread thin by the need to grapple with guerilla warfare and took a serious beating everywhere. It is crystal-clear that in the flaming ocean of people's war, where American troops are, there are "destroy-Yanks, battle-grounds". Although their troops and their weapons are numerous, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys find themselves in strategic and tactical impasse. For them, the offensive is out of reach while the defensive is an armour full of chinks.

Third, the assigning of the "rural pacification" task to puppet regulars is an indication of the U.S. and puppet strategic failure. Dozens of operations carried out by the puppet troops from Quang Tri-Thua Thien to Ca Mau to seize territory and win over the population have been fought off. At their wits' end, the Americans are foolish enough to assign the puppet troops with the "pacification" task thus spreading the latter's forces thin only to fall victims to the regional forces and guerillas who decimate them and pitting the greatest of their weaknesses, i.e. the puppet army, against the strongest force of the South Vietnam army and people.

In the month under review the puppet troops failed not only to accomplish their "pacification" task, but also to preserve themselves. Anti-war feeling and desertions continue to grow within their ranks.

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